



Lantana Lowdown

Welcome

Welcome to the debut of Lantana Lowdown! Our aim, through this quarterly newsletter, is to report on all the happenings in the weedy world of lantana control. We hope to get the dirt (yes, pun intended!) for you, our fellow lantana lamenters, on developments and upcoming events that will help us tackle this Weed of National Significance.

Inside this issue:

Introducing the Chair, NLMG	2
Farewell to our National Coordinator	2
The Interview—Kym Johnson	3
Survey 2006	3
Bio-control	3
“Report Your Infestation”	4
Herbicide Brochure	4
Contact Us	4

Best Practice Trials

Our Lantana Best Practice Management Project Officer, Dr Daniel Stock, is on the hunt to find the best practices in lantana management.

He’s quite the busy bee, carrying out research at sites along the east coast, from northern Queensland to southern New South Wales.

Each of the 11 sites has been carefully chosen to represent the spectrum of environmental and physical conditions likely to be

faced by Aussie farmers and conservationists.

As is the case with most weed and pest problems, integrated control is the way to go, and the sites are being treated using various combinations of mechanical, chemical, fire and manual methods.

The choice of combination is dependent on land use, infestation size, resource availability, climate and weather influences.

“Sometimes we are at the mercy of the weather,”

Daniel said.

“But these are exactly the conditions any land manager faces and it’s important our research accounts for that sort of variability.”

The results of the trials will be used to create a decision support tool to equip land managers with a reliable and easy to use guide to their lantana control options.

We’re looking forward to bringing you Daniel’s regular updates as the trials unfold!



Did you know:

- Lantana is considered to be one of the 10 worst weeds worldwide.
- There are over 600 varieties of lantana in the world. Australia has at least 29 of these.
- Research indicates lantana seed is viable for only 4 years. Continued control for 4-5 years will completely deplete the existing seed bank.

Introducing the National Lantana Management Group

The National Lantana Management Group (NLMG) is an independent advisory body comprised of 14 passionate people from a range of backgrounds.

Including landholders and representatives from state and local government, the group brings a diversity of experience to the lantana management effort, ensuring the effective implementation of the National Lantana Management Strategy.



The NLMG: at Mt Dromedary— south coast NSW

Introducing the Chair, NLMG - John Morris



John Morris

NLMG Chairman John Morris brings a wealth of experience to the role, gained from his long-standing battle with lantana at Tallawallah, his grazing property in central Queensland.

To John lantana has become known as the “weed of mass destruction”, and having thrown literally millions of dollars at the problem, his passion for lantana control has become legendary.

According to John the NLMG draws on the knowledge and experience of public and private landholders who have a vision to develop policies and advise government on lantana control.

“The value of such a work-

“When you fully understand the enemy, you can come up with a battle plan that works”

ing group is in the pooling of each member’s own lantana experiences,” he said.

“Then we have a greater appreciation of the issues and how we are going to find solutions to them.”

John points out that while there is no one way to combat lantana, landholders can take comfort from the fact that they aren’t alone in their plight and with expert assistance lantana can be brought under control.

John’s own experience has demonstrated the impact that can be made against even the most dramatic of lantana infestations.

His property was once wall to wall lantana but he is now well on his way to returning it to its very best.

While he freely admits to have made some very costly mistakes, John is certain the benefits will far outweigh the costs and is keen to make sure everyone can learn from his experiences.

“We will control it and we’ll bring productive land lost to the menace back into productivity”

Farewell to our National Lantana Coordinator - Andrew Clark



Andrew Clark

A lot of the time people tell me lantana has that nostalgic smell that reminds them of their childhood upbringing out in the bush. In reality as a Weed of National Significance it is a pest taking over vast areas of Australia.

I’ve been doing this job for about three and half years now and during that time there have been a number of improvements to how we look at lantana and deal with it on the ground.

It’s people that make the difference. If they are

committed and readily motivated, they will be the ones that are better off financially and can improve their production outputs.

Basically if people have a vision for their property they’re more than likely to make it happen. If we could make everyone that committed perhaps we wouldn’t have so many weed problems?

A number of key projects have been undertaken throughout my tenure as national coordinator and I’m constantly inundated

with queries and questions about what to do in certain situations and how to effectively tackle that issue.

While there is a limit to how many people I can talk to, we have done our best to make life easier by developing a range of easy to use reference information.

But, if I’ve achieved nothing else during my time as National Lantana Coordinator, I hope I have imbued others with the same enthusiasm I have for the lantana battle!

Fast Facts:**Born and bred?**

Brisbane, Queensland

Previous position?

South-West Regional Information and Extension Officer, Natural Resources and Water

Education?

University of Queensland
Bachelor of Science (Hons)
Post Grad Diploma of Journalism

The last CD you listened to?

Hot Fuss, The Killers

The last book you read?

Not surprisingly: The National Lantana Control Manual!

The Interview - Kym Johnson

In our first ever edition of *Lantana Lowdown*, we take this opportunity to introduce you to Kym Johnson!

Kym joins us as the acting National Lantana Coordinator, and brings with her a knowledge of land protection and extension from her previous role in the South West Region of Queensland; and a somewhat surprising love of native Aussie ants from her time spent working at The Fire Ant Control Centre.

Kym grew up in a family

of zoologists and this upbringing, paired with a love of the natural environment has fired her ardour for weed and pest issues.

“I love the idea of giving people the enthusiasm, knowledge and capacity to confidently deal with their lantana issues,” she said.

“Lantana is one of those weeds that can be effectively managed once you have the right tools and I am really looking forward to working with the team to further the fantastic work Andrew has done.”

When asked her idea of the perfect holiday, Kym doesn't hesitate:

“Safari in Africa—although I don't expect to be getting a holiday anytime soon!”

Though given a little more time – would she perhaps go to see South America? Of course!

“I wouldn't pass up an opportunity to see lantana in it's natural habitat!”

A convert already – our work here is done. Welcome to the fold Kym!

Survey 2006 Campaign

The 2006 survey of landholders and land managers has been completed.

The survey was conducted to help us understand current attitudes and hopefully to benefit landholders too.

The respondents set themselves targets they can use

to measure their success are over the coming 12 months.

The responses have been compiled, and are currently being analysed by a research company, to give us a clearer view of lantana management in Australia.

The results will be used to identify the areas where can provide further support to help participants and others control lantana infestation and achieve greater results.

We will continue to report results as we receive them.

Bio-control

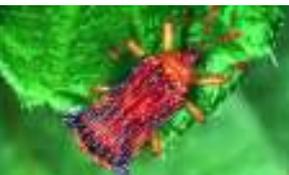
The Community Bio-control Project has recently completed distribution of the lantana rust (*Prosopidium tuberculatum*) to key sites around Queensland. While distribution sites were specifically selected to produce

the best possible results based on lantana variety and climatic conditions the dry weather has slowed its spread in some areas.

The Team is now waiting anxiously for approval to introduce two new biological

control agents: *Ophiomyia camarae* (a leaf miner) and *Aceria lantanae* (a budmite).

We'll keep you informed about those developments as they occur. For further information go to: www.nrw.qld.gov.au/pests



Every little bit helps: *Uroplata fulvopustulata* is one of the bio-control agents used in the fight against lantana



Report Your Infestation!

If you have a lantana infestation and would like assistance in controlling it, please let us know.

Not only will you be helping us to track the spread of *Lantana camara*, but we can put you in touch with resources and contacts to help you control the invasion on your

Herbicide Brochure

We are excited to announce a new publication, *Using Herbicides on Lantana: A guide to best management practices*, is now available!

This brochure outlines herbicides available on the market and the rates at which they should be used.

But it goes further than that...

So many people are unsure of the best ways to

apply herbicides — what rate to apply, what quantity, understanding the cost, knowing the withholding periods, and whether it was selectivity or residual; it was decided the manual had to include everything.

“The information will help people get the desired kill of lantana, without going through the anxiety of herbicide failure and potentially damaging the environment through over use, or throwing money

down the drain” Andrew Clark said.

“One of the biggest problems is knowing which herbicide to use. We don’t answer this question straight out because it depends on what the landholder wants to do. Price isn’t always the only thing to look at when using herbicides.”

The booklet is available by contacting the Lantana management team.



This is YOUR newsletter

And we’d like to make sure you’re receiving the information you need.

If you have a contribution, whether it is a successful weed-whacking experience, or you’d like to share tips and questions on lantana control that could be common, get in touch with us here at the Lantana Weeds of National Significance Headquarters, on any of the contact details listed here.

We look forward to hearing from you!

How to contact us?

Kym Johnson
National Lantana Coordinator
 Ph: 07 3405 5360
 Email: Kym.Johnson@nrw.qld.gov.au

Clare Raven
Lantana WoNS Project Officer
 Ph: 07 3406 2511
 Email: Clare.Raven@nrw.qld.gov.au

Michele Rogers
Lantana WoNS Project Officer
 Ph: 07 3896 3386
 Email: Michele.Rogers@nrw.qld.gov.au

Daniel Stock
Best Practice Management Project Officer
 Ph: 07 3406 2099
 Email: Daniel.Stock@nrw.qld.gov.au



Stay tuned for future issues:

- Containment Zones
- Remote Sensing
- Biodiversity
- Integrated Control